

NEWS RELEASE



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LAKE CHARLES MAN ILLEGALLY POSSESSED FIREARM

Man sentenced to 8 years for being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm

LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA . . .United States Attorney Donald W. Washington and ATF Special Agent in Charge David G. Harper announced that **ARTHUR JAMES LANDRY**, age 30, from Lake Charles, Louisiana was sentenced in federal court today to 100 months (8 years 4 months) imprisonment to be followed by 3 years supervised release by United States District Judge Patricia Minaldi for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

This sentencing is the result of investigations by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Department, and the Lake Charles Police Department as a part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods gun crime reduction initiative, which in the Lake Charles area has been dubbed, "Operation Trigger Time." LANDRY was indicted in August 2005 and pled guilty in May 2006.

The Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office responded to a complaint of a kidnaping which occurred at gun

point on July 19, 2005. Officers learned that LANDRY used a weapon to force his girlfriend into a vehicle. Family members of the victim then received a telephone call from the victim advising that they were at a convenience store in Moss Bluff, Louisiana. Deputies with the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office responded to the call and observed a pistol in plain view in LANDRY's vehicle.

LANDRY is a convicted felon, having been convicted three times in Calcasieu Parish for aggravated battery. It is a federal violation for a convicted felon to possess firearms and/or ammunition.

U.S. Attorney Washington stated, "This is yet another good example of why previously convicted felons should not own or possess firearms. Landry was convicted on several previous occasions for aggravated battery, and cannot legally possess a firearm. He is not the kind of person you want walking around in your neighborhood carrying a firearm. My office will continue to investigate and aggressively prosecute criminals who illegally possess firearms."

This case was prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office as part of Project Safe Neighborhoods. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide program begun in 2001, and designed to reduce violence in our communities by aggressively using existing federal firearms laws. United States Attorneys, District Attorneys, Sheriffs, Police Chiefs, and state officials have created partnerships to address crimes involving firearms. Generally, any arrest involving a firearm is reviewed immediately by local, state and federal authorities to decide whether the case is best suited for prosecution under state or federal law, or a combination of both. Project Safe Neighborhoods is expected to lead to longer prison terms for violent criminals, and a significant reduction in violent crime. To date, federal prosecutions under Project Safe Neighborhoods in the Western District of Louisiana have led to the incarceration of criminals responsible for violent crimes such as homicides, aggravated assaults, robbery, car jacking, burglary, and drug trafficking.

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Larry J. Regan.

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